

California Family Urgent Response System **Commonly Asked Fiscal Questions**

1. Q: What will the FURS allocation be each year?

A: The amount of state general fund assigned to FURS is an annual \$30 million total and is used to determine the yearly base allocation of \$443,000 for first year and future fiscal years. Any changes to the allocations will be determined as the program rolls out and needs of the county on a county-by- county basis but the expectation is that the yearly allocation of \$433,000 will be similar for future fiscal years.

2. Q: How will the FURS allocation be distributed?

A: Allocations will be distributed to the counties through their Child Welfare agencies. Child Welfare agencies should be contracting to other departments for payment purposes.

3. Q: Where can I find claiming instructions for the Family Urgent Response System?

A: Please refer to:

- [CFL No. 20/21-46](#) - Claiming Instructions for The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) for Current and Former Foster Caregivers and Children or Youth
- [CFL No. 20/21-52](#) - Fiscal Year 2020-21 Family Urgent Response System General Fund Planning Allocation
- [CFL No. 20/21-28](#) - Fiscal Year 2021-22 Family Urgent Response System General Fund Allocation (Supersedes CFL No. 20/21-52)

Key information from the letters above includes the following. The FURS allocation is tracked to Ledger 188 – Family Urgent Response System. Program Codes (PC) have been established to monitor administrative costs tracked to the GF allocation. Costs exceeding each county's GF allocation are shifted to county share. At year-end, a closeout process based on FY 2020-21 final expenditures compares each county's allocation against their expenditures. County-specific surplus balances will be redistributed to counties with deficit balances in order to reduce the county-only portion of the nonfederal share of costs and maximize the use of GF dollars.

Effective with the September 2020 quarter, the following Program Codes (PCs) have been established for County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to claim FURS associated administrative costs.

- 985 (FURS Protocol and Development)
- 994 (FURS Mobile Response)
- 986 (SUO FURS Overmatch)

The PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development) is used to claim time spent on the development and administration of the FURS program. The PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response) is also provided for caseworkers to claim allowable time and costs for participating on the FURS mobile response team. Costs claimed in excess of the FURS GF allocation will be shifted to and funded with 100 percent county funds using State Use Only (SUO) code 986 – SUO FURS Overmatch. As mentioned above, a year-end closeout process will redistribute surplus funds to counties with deficit balances. Please refer to [CFL No. 20/21-52](#) for additional information about the Family Urgent Response System General Fund Planning Allocation and [CFL No. 20/21-28](#) which supersedes CFL 20/21-52 by providing updated general fund allocation information for 2021-2022. Questions regarding the FURS allocation should be directed to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov. Additional information, including a Claiming Attachment outlining Program Codes, Time Study Codes, Program Identifier Numbers, and Direct-To-Program codes for FURS claiming, please refer to [CFL No. 20/21-46](#).

4. Q: Is there a special code for FURS staff that are on stand-by or on-call status?

A: TOE Code 26 (Overtime/Standby) should be utilized when claiming stand-by FURS staff.

5. Q: Will on-call FURS staff receive a stipend or time off compensation?

A: Child welfare agencies will develop their own policies related to employee compensation for FURS on-call hours. TOE Code 26 (Overtime/Standby) should be utilized when claiming stand-by FURS staff.

6. Q: If a county does not use their entire FURS allocation during a fiscal year, will that have an impact on future allocations?

A: At this time, CDSS does not anticipate FURS allocation distribution to be affected by whether or not counties fully utilize their allocations in the current year, as it is recognized that FURS is a newly established program that is continuing to grow and that expenditure patterns will not be fully reflective of ongoing years as FURS becomes more readily utilized statewide. It is important to note that allocations are not based on call volume.

7. Q: Will future baseline funding be based on the rate of use per county?

A: The CDSS does not anticipate significant changes to the FURS allocation methodology that would be punitive to counties due to rate of use.

8. Q: Can unused FURS funds be rolled over from year to year?

A: The California Department of Social Services can make a request for funds to be rolled over, but the Department of Finance will make the final decision during the next budget cycle. There is an allocation of \$30 million for the FURS program on an annual

basis. Use of rollover funds is a decision made during the budget process and therefore cannot be determined.

9. Q: How do I know what activities are allowable for the FURS allocation?

A: The CDSS FURS Implementation team issued additional guidance about allowable activities for the development of county FURS programs via email on March 18, 2022. This guidance (included below) is not an exhaustive list of allowable FURS activities, but represents a number of common requests that have been received by CDSS.

Activities allowable for funding through FURS allocation include, but are not limited to:

- Training activities
 - Partnering with ILP services to present on FURS and solicit information on how to outreach to youth
 - Partnering with community partners and local FFAs, that provide PAS, KSSP, resource parent association, and others to present on FURS.
 - Materials to facilitate presentations, meetings, and trainings regarding FURS
 - This could include facilitation tools (such as presentation boards, markers, etc.), providing food at FURS training meetings, other facilitation materials
 - Staff time for participation in FURS meetings/presentations/trainings
- Outreach activities and materials
 - Social media outreach
 - Local newspaper ads or radio show to advertise FURS
 - Create marketing toolkit for outreach and highlight FURS support – flyers, brochures, zoom background, etc.
 - Please note that [CFR 200.421\(e\)\(3\)](#) states that federal funding cannot be used for promotional items such as “memorabilia, including models, gifts and souvenirs” and that the purchase of such items to advertise FURS would be limited to state or county funding
- Response activities and materials
 - Responder tool kits, including items that may help FURS staff in their response, including facilitation materials, items to help engage youth, and informational material about FURS
 - Cars (please note that materials such as these purchased for FURS with FURS funds must be used only for FURS activities and services)
 - Computers/phones (please note that materials such as these purchased for FURS with FURS funds must be used only for FURS activities and services)

Please note that the use of gift cards to provide immediate support to a family receiving FURS services is only an allowable expense after the following criteria are met: Counties cannot claim for the gift cards until 1) a County pays for and receives the card

and 2) the card is handed to the beneficiary. Until the card is given out to the recipient it cannot be claimed, per [CFL 19/20-05](#).

Activities that are NOT allowable for funding through FURS allocation:

Respite care is not an eligible expense for the Title IV-E reimbursement because it is considered a title IV-B reimbursable child welfare activity, per [CFL 16/17-20](#).

10. Q: Can FURS funds be used for staffing individuals who will be responsible for FURS activities but will also be doing non-FURS related tasks?

A: FURS funding may only be accessed via the established claiming mechanics and per the allowable activities defined in the [ACL No. 20-89](#) and [CFL No. 20/21-46](#) guidance. Non-FURS related tasks should be claimed to the appropriate administrative (Time Study or Program) codes.

11. Q: FURS CFLs require a time study process to draw-down funds. This can be challenging for smaller counties that may not have a lot of volume and do not contract with Community Based Organizations (CBO). Is there another way to draw-down funds outside of a time study? **Note: Small/Rural counties have expressed concerns that due to their low-volume of calls each year, they may lose funding in future years due to a lower utilization.

A: Counties may Direct Charge using the appropriate Program Codes and PIN codes referenced in CFL No. 20/21-46. The CDSS will be opening Type of Expense (TOE) Code 26 (Overtime/Standby) to PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response). If time studying is not an option, counties will be able to convert time spent on FURS activities based on salary to a dollar amount (salary + benefits) and charge to Direct to Program (DTP) A95 (FURS Mobile Response).